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4 SYNOPSIS:

5           There is no provision in existing law that  
6           requires the assessment of mothers after giving birth  
7           for postpartum depression.

8           This bill would require the Alabama Department  
9           of Public Health to develop educational materials on  
10          postpartum depression for health care professionals and  
11          parents of newborns.

12          This bill would further require doctors and  
13          other health care professionals to assess birth mothers  
14          for postpartum depression as part of postnatal or  
15          pediatric care.

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19                           A BILL

20                           TO BE ENTITLED

21                           AN ACT

22  
23          Relating to postpartum depression; to add Section  
24          22-20-3.3 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to provide for  
25          educational materials concerning postpartum depression; and to  
26          add Section 22-20-3.4 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to require  
27          assessment for postpartum depression as a part of postnatal  
28          care.



BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 22-20-3.3 and 22-20-3.4 are added to the Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

§22-20-3.3

(a) (1) The Alabama Department of Public Health shall publish written materials to share with health care professionals and to educate parents about postpartum depression.

(2) The materials shall include information from credible sources on the signs and symptoms of postpartum depression and when to seek help.

(3) The Alabama Department of Public Health shall periodically review the materials to determine their effectiveness and ensure that they contain current and accurate information.

(b) The Alabama Department of Public Health shall post the materials on its website and make the materials available in printed form for distribution to health care professionals and hospitals.

(c) Hospitals may provide the materials developed under this section to parents or family members of a newborn upon discharge.

(d) Hospitals as defined in Section 22-21-20, physicians, or health care professionals licensed under Chapter 24 of Title 34 or Article 5 of Chapter 21 of Title 34, shall not have legal liability or responsibility for claims resulting from providing, or failing to provide, the information and materials on maternal mental health



conditions, including postpartum depression, developed pursuant to this section.

§22-20-3.4

(a) A physician or other health care professional licensed under Chapter 24 of Title 34 or Article 5 of Chapter 21 of Title 34, when rendering postnatal or pediatric infant care, shall assess a birth mother for postpartum depression.

(b) A physician or other health care professional licensed under Chapter 24 of Title 34 or Article 5 of Chapter 21 of Title 34, shall exercise professional judgment in recommending or not recommending any treatment that he or she believes is in the best interest of the birth mother.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to establish a standard of care for physicians or other health care professionals licensed under Chapter 24 of Title 34 or Article 5 of Chapter 21 of Title 34, or otherwise modify, amend, or supersede any provision of the Alabama Medical Liability Act of 1987 or the Alabama Medical Liability Act of 1996, or any amendment thereto, or any judicial interpretation thereof.

Section 2. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2025.